

BOOK REVIEWS

PROGRESS IN NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY—An Annual Review—Volume IV. By E. A. Spiegel, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Experimental Neurology, Temple University School of Medicine, Grune & Stratton, New York, 1949. \$10.00.

This annual review of progress in the fields of neurology and psychiatry maintains its high standards of coverage established in previous volumes. As is inherent in any work representing the efforts of a considerable number of reviewers, there is a certain amount of variation in the completeness of coverage and style of presentation, but all of the chapters are adequate, although some are better than others.

The volume is obviously directed at the specialist in these fields, and is of very considerable value as a reference work covering the period. Although intelligible to the general physician, it is doubtful if his interest would carry him through many of the more technical parts.

The great volume of publications in even as restricted a portion of the field of medicine as this makes reviews of this nature almost a necessity if the specialist is to be able to keep abreast of new developments. This book well serves the needs of the neuropsychiatrist in this regard.

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INTESTINAL INTUBATION. By Meyer O. Cantor, M.D., Assistant Attending Surgeon, Grace Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1949. \$7.50.

This book of 333 pages and 138 illustrations covers chapters on the history of the development of indwelling intestinal suctional tubes, anatomy of the gastrointestinal tract, as well as physiology. There is an excellent chapter on distention of the gastrointestinal tract. Other chapters are on technique of intubation, types of tubes used, and disorders of the bowel requiring intubation, as well as chapters on complications and errors in its use and also responsibility of the person in charge of intubation of patients.

The last two chapters deal with a series of experimental studies dealing with the effect of intestinal gases and hydrogen sulfide on balloons. It is not very likely that the practical surgeon would be interested in the last two chapters and he will find that some of the material in other chapters might prove of little practical value.

The author is convinced of the superior value of the Cantor tube in all respects. The book, however, covers every phase of intubation so well that it should be in every hospital library and many surgeons will consider it of great value in solving some of the problems and complications of the indwelling intestinal suction tube.

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HEALTH INSTRUCTION YEARBOOK, 1949. Compiled by Oliver E. Byrd, Ed.D., M.D., F.A.P.H.A., Professor of Health Education and Director, Department of Hygiene, School of Education, Stanford University. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 1949. \$3.50.

In preparing this seventh yearbook, Dr. Byrd read 1,643 articles from which he presents a digest of 255 which had appeared in 80 different periodicals or reports. The abstracts are arranged under 21 headings such as Nutrition and Health, Infection and Immunity, Care of Special Organs, Health as a Social Problem, Occupational Health. Each topic or chapter begins with a summary statement highlighting major developments in that area, followed by the abstracts. Then follow the bibliography giving the full

title and source of the abstracts, an alphabetical list of the sources, an author index and a subject index. The subjects are well chosen, interestingly presented and give a broad panorama of achievements in the health field. The book can be recommended to all American health workers, whether they are teaching individual private patients or groups as at meetings or in classrooms.

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SURGICAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PROSTHESIS. By Oscar E. Beder, King's Crown Press, Columbia University, 1949. \$3.00.

The field partly covered in this book is of interest to the surgeon whose patient is to have use for oral prosthesis, and to the general dental practitioner. It is, however, seldom put to good use by either. This is due in the main to two reasons: First, the relatively few patients of this nature encountered in practice and second, the lack of realization by the medical profession that such aid may be offered by dentistry. The author suggests a closer tie between the two professions in this particular field. Great strides were made during the last war but these were usually confined to specialties; i.e., plastic surgery and its respective maxillofacial teams.

The book is composed of nine chapters dealing with most of the prosthetic appliances of the field; i.e., intraoral splints, stents, and obturators, extraoral cranial plates, noses, and ears.

Of interest to medical men may be the chapter dealing with protective shields for radiation therapy. The chapter in obturators is informative to the general dentist, for most laboratory procedures are quite well covered throughout.

There is very little new material included, even though much was accomplished in this field during World War II. Splints described are all of the cap type. Such improvements as the sectional screwlock type are not mentioned.

The book would serve well as a manual for advanced student classes or to the general practitioner who is called upon to make one of these appliances without much previous experience. To the advanced prosthetist, it helps as a teaching guide.

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ATLAS OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS. Second Edition. By Elliott C. Cutler, M.D., Late Moseley Professor of Surgery, Harvard University, and Chief Surgeon, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital; and Robert M. Zollinger, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Ohio State University College of Medicine. Illustrated by Mildred B. Coddington, A.B., M.A. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. 1949. \$9.00.

The second edition of this standard atlas has been enlarged and improved in a number of ways. Almost half of the plates have been redrawn. Many procedures have been added, among these being a small section on injuries to the central nervous system, and vagotomy through the abdominal approach.

The printing of the copy reviewed was clearer than that of the first edition with which it was compared.

The book covers all of the common procedures used in general surgery. No bibliographies are included and the descriptive text is simple and direct. It is recommended to the busy general surgeon, but mostly to the young surgeon who is learning operative technique. The medical student will find it an excellent reference volume.